

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTO 02212 272135Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00
EB-08 FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-11 TRSE-00 XMB-02
OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 L-03 AGRE-00
NSC-05 SS-15 STR-07 CEA-01 OIC-02 /123 W
-----075449 272147Z /73

P R 272100Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4331
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LONDON

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DEPT PASS TO ALL ARA DIPLOMATIC POSTS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OAS, ETRD, EGEN, XM
SUBJECT: OAS-SCCN MEETING HEARS U.S. STATEMENTS

REF SANTO DOMINGO 2181

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. THE SECOND DAY OF THE VIII REGULAR MEETING OF THE OAS SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION AND NEGOTIATION (SCCN) WAS DEVOTED TO LATIN CAUCUSES AND TWO STATEMENTS BY THE U.S. DELEGATION. THE LATIN AMERICAN GROUP WAS STILL UNABLE TO AGREE ON A COMMON SUGAR POSITION, WITH THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AND BRAZIL REPRESENTING OPPOSING VIEWS. US DELEGATION HEAD ARELLANO MADE A GENERAL STATEMENT RESPONDING TO SOME OF THE CRITICISMS OF US TRADE POLICY ON THE FIRST DAY. DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL COMMODITIES OFFICE WENDT MADE A SEPARATE STATEMENT ON THE SUGAR SITUATION. END SUMMARY

2. THE LATIN AMERICAN GROUP CONTINUED TO WORK MUCH OF THE DAY ON APRIL 26 TRYING TO AGREE ON A SUGAR POSITION TO PRESENT
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PAGE 02 SANTO 02212 272135Z

TO THE US. THE DR WANTS LATIN SUPPORT FOR A RIGHT TO A NATIONAL QUOTA SYSTEM. BRAZIL, ON THE OTHER HAND, WISHES TO EXPRESS STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE INTERNATIONAL SUGAR AGREEMENT AND IS UNWILLING TO RECOMMEND NATIONAL QUOTAS. EVIDENTLY OTHER LARGER COUNTRIES SUCH AS ARGENTINA AND MEXICO TEND TO SIDE WITH BRAZIL WHILE SEVERAL OF THE SMALLER CARIBBEAN AND CENTRAL AMERICAN MEMBERS AGREE WITH THE DR. WE EXPECT THE LATINS TO PRESENT A COMMON POSITION ON THE

THIRD DAY, APRIL 27, BUT NOT LIKELY A WATERED-DOWN POSITION
ACCOMMODATING THE DIVERGENT VIEWS OF THE LATIN GROUP.

3. IN THE ABSENCE OF A COMMON LATIN POSITION ON SUGAR, THE
OTHER DELEGATIONS ASKED TO HEAR US VIEWS ON SUGAR. WENDT
ACCORDINGLY MADE A STATEMENT ON THE SUGAR SITUATION AS WE SEE IT
WHICH IS REPORTED SEPTEL. ALTHOUGH NONE OF THE LATIN DELEGATIONS
RESPONDED TO HIS STATEMENT, IT APPEARED TO BE GENERALLY WELL
RECEIVED.

4. EARLIER IN THE DAY ARELLANO READ A STATEMENT REPLYING TO THE
SEVERE CRITICISM TO WHICH WE WERE SUBJECTED ON THE FIRST DAY
(REFTEL. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT PROTECTIONIST PRESSURES IN THE US AND
ELSEWHERE ARE CAUSE FOR SERIOUS CONCERN BUT HE POINTED OUT THAT
THE US THUS FAR HAS BEEN QUITE SUCCESSFUL IN RESISTING THESE
PRESSURES. HE TOLD THEM THAT HE THOUGHT "THAT THE TENOR OF SOME OF
YESTERDAY'S COMMENTS IS MISPLACED," AND PROCEEDED TO CORRECT SOME
OF THE PERCEPTIONS EXPRESSED BY THE LATINS. HE PARTICULARLY
EXPLAINED THE ADVANTAGES OF THE US GSP, CITING STATISTICS ON GSP
UTILIZATION BY THE LATIN AMERICANS AND CARIBBEANS. "DESPITE THE
PROBLEMS OF PROTECTIONIST SENTIMENT," HE SAID, "THERE HAS BEEN NO
RETREAT FROM OUR COMMITMENT TO AND IMPLEMENTATION OF OUR GSP SYSTEM."
DURING THE 1977 ANNUAL REVIEW, FOR EXAMPLE, THE US REMOVED ONLY
ONE ITEM FROM GSP, WHICH DID NOT AFFECT LATIN AMERICA, AND ADDED
ELEVEN NEW ITEMS. GSP IMPORTS ACCOUNTED FOR 9 PERCENT OF OUR NON-
OIL IMPORTS FROM THE HEMISPHERE. WE HAVE SUPPORTED SEMINARS AT
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PAGE 03 SANTO 02212 272135Z

HOME AND ABROAD ON GSP UTILIZATION OF COMPETITIVE LIMITATIONS
SERVE TO INSURE DISTRIBUTION OF GSP BENEFITS AMONG VARIOUS
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND CLEARLY ARE NOT PROTECTIONIST. HE
STRESSED THAT OUR ECONOMIC TRADE CONCERNS OCCUR IN THE CONTEXT OF
THE WORLDWIDE TRADE CONCERNS OF ALL MEMBER COUNTRIES. THIS
MEETING REPRESENTS AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONTRIBUTE, AT THE INTER-
AMERICAN LEVEL, TO GLOBAL TRADE DISCUSSIONS. FINALLY, HE EXPLAINED
THAT WE CONTINUE TO HAVE THE ECUADOR-VENEZUELA EXCLUSION UNDER
CONSIDERATION. WE EXPECT MORE DETAILED DISCUSSION ON GSP LATER
IN THE MEETING HERE.
AXELROD

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ALL ARA POSTS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SUGAR, POLICIES, AGREEMENTS, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SANTO02212
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780181-0005
Format: TEL
From: SANTO DOMINGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978049/aaaaahgv.tel
Line Count: 107
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6e04eeb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 SANTO DOMINGO 2181
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3066923
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OAS-SCCN MEETING HEARS U.S. STATEMENTS
TAGS: ETRD, EGEN, PORG, XM, OAS, CECON, ISA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6e04eeb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014